

## VVA Meeting Notes 1/9/93

Meeting was called to order at 7:15, A moment of silence observed for the Missing in Action left behind + in America.

Minutes read by Beth. No additions or corrections. Motion made to accept by Clark, 2nd by Steve. Passed.

Treasurer's Report - \$481.81 in the checking account, 281.99 in petty cash. We have been having trouble with National updating our membership, so from now on Clark will mail all memberships out on the 15th of each month by <sup>certified</sup> registered mail with a return receipt required. Motion to accept made by Paul, seconded by Kym. Passed.

Video Committee - Taping will begin this week for the cable show. Jim Edge is to host.

POW/MIA Committee - The Committee Report is awaiting signature before it can be submitted. Sen. Smith does not want to sign it. We have people in line for a copy. Paul is afraid when the new people take office the issue will die. Clark states "it will only die if we let it". There is a movement to try to get a Presidential Commission by Clinton w/ Ross Perot as the head. Jim wants to push to have the files opened to the families. This would avoid the privacy Act + what they do with the files would then be their business.

## New Business

Honor the Vet Program - Jeff Wennberg, Mayor of Rutland was a guest at the meeting to discuss this program. This was originally Jake's idea, + is being reintroduced. It would involve signposts at the 4 entrances to the city with service organization emblems + the words "We Honor Our Vets". This would ~~correspond~~ correspond with a decal appearing in stores + restaurants that would then give a discount of whatever value to veterans. Jeff is all for this program + wants to begin setting up meetings with John Giofredi of the Dept. of Parks. He feels that the signs + surrounding areas should look classy, perhaps using wooden signs + landscaping. The budget should be about \$5000, with the city providing half + the service clubs providing half. Letters have gone out to the other organizations the Legion + Moose are really interested. The decal program will be presented first to the downtown group. Our people will meet soon with the city.

Opera House - The issue of moving to the Opera House with the VAO as opposed to meeting out of someone's home was discussed. It was unanimously decided to move to the Opera House.

~~Collection~~ Flag Pole - the P.O. donated a 22ft flag pole to Voch Tech for use at games. Ken Bates suggested VVA #1 donate a flag for it. A POW/MIA flag was also discussed, but that would be up to the school system. Tim has a 7x9 flag which he would donate.



Elections will be held in April. Nominations as well as Amendments or Additions to the by-laws are now being Accepted.

We have left the Vet. Council.

Someone named Lee Emery was soliciting funds under our name. Apparently he was once a part of National + was Reprimanded for misrepresentation. Steve notified the Mayor's office + city police that we were not doing any fundraising at this time.

National Convention - This will be held Aug. 4-8 at Virginia Beach. Two things they want to pass are taking away the salaries of Nat. officers + making those officers live in Washington DC. It was generally felt that this is wrong. Steve asks members to write to National in opposition of these ideas. Motion made to oppose by Clark, seconded by Paul, unanimous.

Coming Events - Steve needs people to chair + serve on committees: 1) Bus trip to DC on Vet. Day for dedication of women's memorial; 2) Sending representatives to the National Convention; 3) Fundraising. Tim suggested a Strategic Planning committee be formed to draw up a budget, a fundraiser plan, + a strategic plan. He offers to serve but not chair. Volunteers see Steve after the meeting.

Good of the Order - Paul reported that the Senator from Colorado, Ben Knight Horse Campbell, an American Indian, wanted to have a reception at a VFW in Col. He was apparently told "We ain't lettin' no stinkin' Indian in here".

Telephone - The issue of a telephone for VVA was addressed twice. The first time Steve said it would cost about \$50 a month to have a telephone separate from VAO. This would be manned by volunteers. With only \$400 in the treasury, it was opposed because of lack of funds.

It was reintroduced by Tim Philbin who says "if we're going to be a successful organization we need to get off our ass & do something to establish ourselves or forget it." We've talked the talk, now it's time to walk the walk. He even goes so far as to say he personally would pay the bill if need be, & asks how many others are willing to do this. ~~The telephone issue is resolved, & will be installed this week.~~

~~Rent~~ - Tim make a motion that VVA open their own office by renting space from the VAO & installing a phone. Seconded by Paul - passed.

Motion to close the meeting made by Paul & seconded by Bill B. Adjourned at 9:35,



## VVA Meeting 2/6/93

Meeting was called to order at 7:15. A moment of silence was held for the missing both in Vietnam + America. Minutes were read by Beth + Accepted.

Treasurer's Report - \$631.21 in the account. Accepted.

Color Guard Report - Bill asked for a definite commitment from the Color Guard on the St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke on March 21. 6 members were present, 5 agreed to go. Loyalty Day parade will be on May 2nd at 2 pm.

Cable Report - Our show is airing on Channel 15 at 8pm Monday + 9AM Friday. Taping is done bi-weekly, each show airs for 2 weeks. John hopes to get the show broadcast on other cable stations.

Associate Report - We will be having a big bake sale at the mall on February 13th. Melody is asking for donations of baked goods or money. She will be calling to talk with members not present.

The money will be going towards the Chapter jackets. The next big sale will be Loyalty Day.

Purchasing Report - Steve has placed Beth in charge of purchasing. From now on all purchases of products to use as fund raisers must go through her. 100 pins have been bought, they are selling for \$4 each.

Strategic Planning Committee - The first meeting was held, which produced a mission statement for VVA which is "VVA Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience thru intervention & social interaction". A lot of ideas were discussed & in future meetings the Committee will be trying to set some goals to strive for.

Jackets - Steve discussed the idea of satin baseball jackets with the Chapter logo & asked for input. Everyone agreed they would be nice to have available for those who wanted them. The point was stressed that this would be voluntary & not required.



POW/MIA - The Final Senate Sub committee Report is 2 volumes + 1000 pages, We have one on order from Sen. Leahy. Tim thinks we should all write to President Clinton + advise him to establish a Presidential POW/MIA Committee. A vet has been at the VA in White River claiming to be a POW - this was proved false. This is a good example of why VT. needs a POW/MIA commission.

Honor the Vet Program - The city is stonewalling on the signs. ~~There was some~~ A letter to the Editor was discussed to educate the people. CLARK suggests starting to approach the stores with the decal program.

Network Convention - The Northeast POW/MIA Network wants Chapter 1 to host the upcoming convention. We will not lose any money, because Tim is fronting the start-up money. Mike Peck, Carol Hrdlika + Pam Hicks are all confirmed speakers. Tim is looking for volunteers; free admission for the volunteers, so the meals would be the only cost to the volunteers. Leigh Sykes on guitar + Karaoke for night time entertainment. Our Color Guard is needed as well as an address + bank account to funnel the pre registration thru us. Vote - unanimously accepted.

~~Fire~~  
Fire on the Mountain - Leigh Sykes has run this 4 years + made a profit 3 out of 4. VVV has let their end of the bargain drop + Leigh wants to know if VVA#1 is interested this year. We would work as volunteers + get ~~the~~ any profit after taxes. Woodstock - July 3rd. Vote - UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

Also voted on presenting the Ethan Allen Award to Bob Smith At the Convention - this vote was UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

Election of Officers - Coming in April. Nominations may be submitted to Steve or Beth.

Chapter #660 is having problems with their President + is in danger of going under. Steve has offered our support.

Meeting Adjourned At 9:40



VVA CHAPTER #1  
MARCH 6TH MEETING NOTES

Meeting was called to order by Steve at 7:20 p.m., a moment of silence was held for our brothers still lost in Vietnam and for those lost here in America.

Treasurer's Report- \$315.21 in checking account. A \$454 check was sent to National for Memberships.

Secretaries Report- Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as such. Motion to accept made by Clark and seconded by Gene.

Introductions- The chapter welcomes Jack, who has joined as a life member.

New Policy- At a board meeting earlier today, a new policy was drafted and accepted to allow meetings to proceed at a better pace.

NEW POLICY

The Board of Directors will meet at 6 pm on the first Saturday of the month. All committee chairpersons will attend with a written copy of their report for submission to the board. The oral reports to be given at the chapter meeting are to be limited to 5 minutes, if more time is needed, the chairperson must petition the Board for it and prove just cause.

Any requests for donations must be submitted to the Board in written form. This must include the reason for and size of requested donation, as well as the name and phone number of person requesting it if we need more information.

The Chapter meeting will follow the Board meeting promptly at 7 pm, in the following order: Call to Order, Introduction of New Members and Guests, Treasurer's Report, Secretaries Report, Old Business, New Business, Committee Reports lasting no more than 5 minutes each. Maximum meeting time will be 90 minutes.

During meeting time, there will be no political, religious or moral issues discussed. Attendees will conduct themselves appropriately subject to the judgement of the President or his designee. Outbursts of an offensive manner will not be tolerated.

Old Business

Honor The Vet Program- The Board of Directors would like input from the chapter on what the signs should look like. These will be voted on and we will try to bypass the city. Other vet groups are "mildly" interested, the Moose club is very interested. It was suggested we try to concentrate on the non-service groups for

backing. Steve has asked Jim to check into a source and cost of decals. We would like to kick this off on Memorial Day with the six sponsors we already have.

#### New Business

Newsletter- This will be going out monthly. Committee reports or articles need to be in no later than the Wednesday following each meeting. It was suggested we sell ads in the newsletter to pay for paper, toner, and postage.

PTSD- The VA is finally recognizing PTSD in women vets.

Moving Wall- Don reported that the Moving Wall will be at Adirondack Community Collage from August 12 to August 18. Our Color Guard is invited to participate in the opening ceremonies. Saturday, August 14th will be POW/MIA Day. Don is asked to supply a map to the people who do not know how to get to ACC.

Bus Trip- Chapter #111 has offered to let us participate in their bus trip which provides round trip bus fare from Springfield MA to Washington and Back via Peter Pan bus lines for 49.95. A block of rooms has been reserved in downtown DC at a cost of \$109 for 4 people. Events are planned in Washington for November 10th-12th. It has been suggested we go down on Tuesday and return on Saturday. The Tri-County POW/MIA Council is hosting a breakfast on that Saturday. Input is requested.

Recognition Program- A new Recognition Program is being started to give recognition to members who go above and beyond the normal expectations of the Chapter. Names should be submitted in writing to the Board for consideration.

#### Committee Reports

Color Guard- The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke is on March 21, all of you who said you'd go, make sure to be there. We want to make a good showing. Other events are being scheduled: Loyalty Day, the Conference, Memorial Day, Hartford Bicentennial, and the Moving Wall. We hope to have an updated schedule of events appearing in each newsletter.

Associate Members- Melody reported that \$197 was made at the bake sale held at The Mall on February 13th, and she thanked everyone who helped. We plan to do the same thing again for Loyalty Day. John suggested a round of applause for Melody and Beth for their hard work.

Strategic Planning Committee- John will be calling people to ask for volunteers to serve on two committees; Fundraising and Social Event Planning.

Video Committee- The name has been changed to the Public Relations Committee. It will now also be in charge of press releases and



public service announcements. Joel Williams will be joining this committee, and will be a definite asset with his broadcasting experience.

POW/MIA Committee- "It's in there"-see the Network newsletter.

Purchasing- Jim will be paying off our debt to Buckles n Stuff for the flags and the remaining cups. This money will go into the convention fund. We had planned to order Brass POW/MIA Dog Tags, but Kym showed us one she owns which is not wearing well, so we decided that we did not want to carry merchandise that was less than 100% credible. We made \$64 at the bake sale at the Mall which is being reinvested into more POW/MIA merchandise to sell at the conference.

Legislative Report- Leahy will be funneling info to us, which will be passed to Joe for interpretation and reports.

#### ONE FINAL NOTE

Elections will be held at the next meeting. All current officers are running for their respective offices again. Any new nominations can be submitted to Beth or Steve.

Voting was held on the Chapter jackets. They will be Forest Green with Gold embroidery. The cost will be \$61 and can be ordered through Steve. We were asked about striping on the collar and cuffs, and it was decided to go with plain. Clark would like to see a recognition program developed for past officers.

Adjournment was at 8:55 with the motion made by Clark and seconded by Kym.

VVA CHAPTER # 1  
MEETING NOTES - APRIL 3, 1993

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 , a moment of silence was held for our missing brothers and sisters.

Election of Officers was held, Clark officiated. He asked if there were other nominations other than the current office holders. None were made. Jim made a motion to cast one ballot to reelect the officers. Milton seconded, passed. ballots were passed out to elect 4 officers to the board of directors, nominees were: Bill Higgins, Jim Howley, Kym Hoerr, Mike Divoll, Paul Butler, John Bergeron, and Joel Williams. Ballots were handed in to Beth who helped Clark with the counting. New BOD: Bill, Jim, Kym and John. Congratulations to all the officers.

Introduction of Frank Bump, new member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations for Certificates of Honor will be accepted on March 1 and September 1. Decisions will be made by the BOD and certificates will be handed out at the following meeting.

Raffle Tickets are being sold for a 50-50 held by Chapter 79 of Glens Falls to help raise money for the moving wall. Also for sale on a Harley Davidson being raffled off by Chapter 296 of Watertown NY.

The new banner made for the chapter by Melody was presented to President Steve and Vice President Joe. Steve thanked Melody for all her hard work and hung the banner on the office wall.

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter- Articles for the newsletter must be submitted to the office by the 15th of the month.

Bus Trip to DC- Chapter 111 doesn't need an answer on their trip until August, so Beth will be checking around for an better price.

Decals- Jim checked on prices for decals for the honer the vet program but without more specific details couldn't get a definite price. Looks as though it will be expensive. Steve has a lead here in town. Don suggested using a posterboard to start off and as participants increase then switch to decals. Any ideas for sign or sticker design should be submitted to the chapter BOD by June 1.

NEW BUSINESS

National Convention- Steve thinks we should attend. Don says in the past few years it has been one big political mess which is a waste of time and money. Doesn't want to be a wet blanket but



hates to see us waste out money. Clark says Bobby Muller started VVA to be a grassroots organization but it has gotten way out of hand. More can be accomplished by connecting one on one with other chapters.

Phone- BOD decided to remove the phone from the office due to cost and lack of use. The VAO will serve as our contact, and if we make any long distance calls from here they will bill us.

Fundraiser Idea- Joe would like to see a bracelet campaign started for helping the needy vet. Each bracelet could have the name of a living vet. Money used could help the homeless vet get a fresh start and could be paid back at a later time if possible. Clark moved we form a committee, Steve asks Joe to chair the committee, he accepted.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Color Guard- Need more people to make a commitment of march with us. The Holyoke parade was huge, but with only 5 people, we looked kind of small. Next parade coming up will be the Loyalty Day parade here in Rutland on May 2. Everybody is invited to march with us and make a good showing here at home.

PR- Show times for the VET NET have been changed. We will be doing a live call in show on gays in the military in the near future.

Purchasing- We are still ordering merchandise for the convention. We have been using front money from several people to get the things we need. We will be selling custom cups which are ordered. They will be black w/ gold writing, have our logo, the POW logo and the names of the missing Vermonters. The first shipment will not be available to the chapter until after the convention.

Associates- There will be a bake sale on Loyalty Day like last year. We will not be selling coffee, just soda. Melody will be calling for donations.

SEE NOTES FOR INFO ON JIM AND DON'S TRIP TO DC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15. Conference T-shirts on sale for \$8. Ads being sold for program, registrations being accepted now.

# Meeting Notes

May <sup>1993</sup> Meeting - held in park - no notes taken. Highlight of meeting was the handing out of Certificates of Appreciation to Melody, Beth, Bill B. + Don A.

June Meeting - Never took notes because only 1 person other than B.O.D. members showed up. High points - letters to be written to all states Dept of Motor Vehicles asking if they have any programs to honor their veterans. Letters to other vet orgs asking them to support WIMSA which only has till Nov. to raise their funds. \$50 donation approved to be sent to Freedom Flight c/o Buckles + Stuff



VVA Meeting 7/10/93

Special Guest - Linda Schwantz

Mom. silence for POW/MIA, their families,  
+ missing in Amer.

Tony Rossier, Frank Lynch (As.)  
Don + Sharon (transferred) Dick Doyle

Guest - Buddy Smith

Sent out 58 letters - 16 present

Sic Report - May + June - ~~not~~ notes taken

Treas \$759.56 in acc.

Present 51 members - 4 people - problems  
w/ membership

Color Guard Rep. - July 24th Bicent.  
Hartford - Kym mentions dedications  
of Randolph cemetery - Steve looking  
for volunteers to go to Rand. Kym  
will represent WAC Vets - Clark reps.  
office. Color Guard was in Brandon +  
Randolph over 4th.

Ass. Rep - No rep.

Honor the vet Program - Steve has yet to get w/ city or Moose, Elks etc.  
Mayor doesn't want the city involved wants us to raise funds on our own  
Clark - coupon book idea - instead of merchant sticker on window - use coupons instead to springboard the idea. Take - mayor is strong on vets + their accomplishments. Start now with accounts (Pappis for one) we have + get under motion. Trying to get check mark on D. License for veteran status. Letters out to other states on this topic. License plates - Paul say DAV Am Leg VFW have all fought this battle + will not compromise  
Take Keep pushing for license I.D. Kym - Viet vets infiltrate other vet orgs to get more unity. Am. Leg. Commander + VFW com of W. Rut. are Viet vets.

Washington trip - 2nd payment is now due - Discussion followed on DC - Clinton - dishonor - vets - comradeship - honor for women + recognition for them - Hillary - Go not for Hillary but for women vets.

Big Bullshit Discussion



Reg. 1 Conf - tentatively #45 per night  
Conf rooms free - Comfort Inn  
Rutland - South Station works w/  
Conf Inn - we can use Garden Room  
Buffet \$15 per person Sat night  
Soups to nuts - working on this now -  
Conf Inn has sent Steve a letter of  
intent. Any rollover goes to Holiday  
Inn. Last conf had 60 people.

Nat. Conv. is in Aug. - we have 1 deleg  
if anyone could afford to go as  
a rep it would be on their own.  
Don is not impressed w/ National  
conv + basically the trip + money  
would be wasted. 1 vote won't amount  
to anything (horse's ass)

~~Meeting turned over to Linda~~

VAO - ~~ate~~ update - looking for VVA rep.  
Clark says to be thinking about this  
to ~~form~~ form new vet council

Vet Net update - want to start up a vol-  
rehab - educ - training - Clark is trying  
to get a home in it for VVA Jim Edge  
has gone into bank

5 vets in St Johnsbury that want to start an office like VAO - Clark suggests VVA#1 expand. These people will be down in Sept.

Howley sends regards + message - going to DC for meeting. Nat Alliance of families - trying to regroup.

Good of order - Clark offers copy of con tape to Linda

Yake → Chaffee has done zip - talks about rejuvenating - Yake wants to know if we want to keep money in that fund or pull it out & put it to better use. Yake suggests going to Chaffee + telling them "if can't get it by Sept - then on 30th give us back money." Voted on + approved.

Robert Bissone  
90 State ~~getting~~ cutting vet ups to once  
VT Viet Vet action group trying to pressure ~~group~~ <sup>state</sup> to release funds. Don suggests we ~~also~~ get info on this first  
Clark asks if we want him to talk w/ this guy - yes - Paul wants to meet him too.



Vet Center - <sup>State</sup> wants to open a vet center  
Rutland & Bennington are up for it -  
Diana H. is pushing for Rut.  
tabled till next meeting

Live POW Lobby of America - B & B  
asking for volunteers -

Turned over to Linda who introduced  
herself

Her Comments on our meeting:

Rivalry between vet orgs - people (vets + not)  
like to keep the feud going. No better  
on Nat. level - Orgs don't even commu.

Doubts Hillary will show up for dedication

VVA will be having activities that week.  
DMZ-Delta - March - Father Phil started  
group of vets who were religious or got  
relig. in Viet. - ~~mem~~<sup>mem</sup> mass on day before

Ass. members who were former Donut  
Dollies have researched & found 53  
civilian women who died in Vietnam.  
holding memorial

Viet Vet of Amer Foundation - Charitable  
org w/ thrift stores gave millions \$ to  
charities. Bobbie Mueller used to be pres  
of this + not giving all funds to VVA -  
left as pres + ~~can~~ took the money to  
use for reconciliation w/ Vietnamese. VVA  
made him stop using the money - formed  
new <sup>VVA</sup> ~~Vet~~ Assistance <sup>Fund</sup> ~~org~~. Bobby is still  
fighting for money which is in escrow  
during legal battle. If we get funds  
it is earmarked for chapters + state council

Opens up to questions + comments -  
stresses that she is elected by region chapters  
+ is not paid.

Don stresses his commitments + thinks  
National is into self preservation + is  
a bureaucracy, more concerned w/ this  
than with the chapters + the members.  
Says they pass resolutions + never act on them.  
Thinks they have lost sight of the little people.

Linda's Answer - Agree that some people just  
think of it as a job but she + some others  
really care + do it for their chapters. There  
is a lot of politics + bureaucracy that go on. Ex -  
5 Hours hearing case against <sup>us</sup> ~~dis~~guntled member



who wants to be an officer - Kym wants to know what we can do - Linda believes that their ~~paid positions~~ <sup>people</sup> needs to be more permanent & don't shift every 2 or 4 yrs  
May be a move at Nat con to have only the Pres be a paid position.

Paul - all vet orgs have <sup>Nat.</sup> service officers in white river except VVA - why? We do have them but they are not paid - Legal association which has been costing \$42000 (month or year) - since losing money from Foundation changes have been made & we will not be able to take landmark cases.  
Paying our service reps is the #2 priority of the Assistance Fund #1 being homelessness  
Clark - if you have PTSD above 30% can not be serv. rep. There was case where a serv. rep was 100% & rep. someone else for a PTSD claim.

Clark asks about yearly meetings - asks about having <sup>certain</sup> people in charge of each things i.e membership at Nat level so if a prob. developed we would have a specific name to deal with

My gripe - answer - IRS has  
a law saying vet orgs cannot  
let non vets vote - will be addressed  
again at Nat Con. Nat has no  
problem w/ it but some states would  
have problems with their taxes.

Problems w/ Nat - mail + checks etc  
go into a black hole + do not get  
taken care of. Answer - change in the  
computer system + problems are hopefully  
fixed. Clark - that's why he was original  
#83 + is now #32,xxx

Don suggests making a copy of  
correspondence + sending it to Linda  
so there is a paper trail + she can  
try to get results.

Paul + Darlene - claims it said in VVA  
Veteran that VVA Nat. supported Clinton  
/ Gore. Linda says we didn't endorse  
them + that Clinton/Gore are very  
down on VVA in D.C.

Steve - what is Nat position on  
copyright? Hart is very strict +  
is making \$85,000 per year off it.  
Dubek drew up contract for Hart (also  
a draft dodger) getting the c. rights



See Page 4 of booklet  
Write letter to fund asking  
them to purchase us copies of  
manuals + subscription.

~~I think ~~there~~ must be a very~~  
~~unhappy person - she has so much~~  
~~bitterness + hatred in her! Look at~~  
~~the way she sits there!~~

Is now president because all  
monuments now are copyrighted.  
Imminent Domain? can't cos it is  
tied in w/ VVMF. Linda is very  
angry at Hart - Peggy Donovan  
started Friends of the wall - is dead  
now of Brain cancer - wanted to  
write a book about the wall + wanted  
to use a pic of the 3 fighting men  
+ Hart would not allow it.

Commemorative Works Act - stipulates how  
memorials will be administered.

Thunder Run 5/30/93 for Homeless Vets  
Bill Fitzpatrick net \$400

September 4, 1993  
VVA # 1 Meeting Notes

Meeting called to order at 7:05, & begun with a moment of silence for all the MIA's.

Steve introduced Tony & Pat Rossier from Bristol. Tony is a member at large whose has found a home with us. They will be joining us on our trip to DC in November & just returned from the National Convention.

There was no secretaries report because Beth did not attend the August meeting, so no notes were taken.

The treasurer's report says there is \$1300 in the account. The Chaffee Art Gallery returned the money we had given them towards a memorial in the park to commemorate the Moving Wall. This was done because Sue Farrow is leaving & there is no one to take over the project.

We are still having membership problems - Beth & Bill still have no cards. Tony reported hearing this complaint from all over the country at the National Convention. We need to encourage our members to renew through the chapter to avoid problems. Don suggests putting a note in each month's newsletter about renewing through the chapter.

The Honor the Vet program will kick-off at The Northeast Army Supply store on Oct. 8th at 12 noon. Mayor Wennburg will cut the ribbon & Steve would like to get one of our Senators to put the first sticker on the door. It was suggested to invite all state reps so as not to look like we are playing favorites. Signs will be done later, possible in the spring & will cost \$800 each, we will need to do a fundraiser to get funds from the community.

Fire on the Mountain, 1994 is being planned by Leigh Sykes to take place at Camp Johnson on Mem. Day weekend. At that time, the Vt. Freedom Medal will be presented to any one who entered the service from the state of Vt. Leigh will hopefully be getting together with us in the near future to fill us in further. When the legislature goes back in session in Dec., they will allocate \$10,000 for the project.

Bennington Battle Day, 1994 will see the Moving Wall in town. Chapter 601 will build a firebase for the event. Steve would like to see a re-enactment of a firefight as a educational tool. Clark would like to hold a gathering at that time.



Issue is tabled.

**Color Guard Report**— The only upcoming event is the POW recognition day at Camp Johnston. There will be at least 3 with a couple of possibles. Color Guard pins & patches were presented to the members who are always at the events. It will be decided in the future where to wear the patches, in the mean time wear the pins.

**POW Report**— A Silent Vigil is being held in the Veteran's Memorial Park in Fair Haven on Thursday night. Please try to attend & pass the word. Project Walking K info was passed around by Steve. Sept. 14th is the day the decision will be made about the embargo. Rumor has it Clinton will not lift it. Call your representatives.

Mike Van Atta will hold a press conference at the wall on the 10th & will supposedly drop a bomb to blow things wide open. I will try to get a transcript of the report ASAP.

The copyright issue was discussed again.

The BOD has decided that no event can be held with VVA name on it without full BOD quorum. Rules of conduct are being established by the BOD and must be followed or else party will be disciplined.

Don wants to do a mass mailing of letters to veterans in the state. Beth has addresses from the Wall guest book. They will work together on this project & come up with a letter to generate interest which will be presented to the BOD for approval.

**Good of the Order**— Clark reports that last month 9 Vietnam vets in Vt. died of heart attacks. He asks that anyone under stress to please call him at any time, we don't want any more to die. PTSD has been proven to create a chemical imbalance causing added stress on the heart.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM with a motion by Clark, and a second by Beth.

## VVA Meeting Notes 10/2/93

Meeting called to order at 7pm + a moment of silence was held for the POW/MIAs.

Several new members were present + they were welcomed + introduced.

~~Secretaries~~ <sup>Minutes</sup> Report was read by Beth. One correction was made by Clark. Motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Jake, seconded by Clark, + so passed.

Treasurer's Report by Clark lists an ending balance of \$1011.56. Motion to accept made by Don + seconded by Jake. Passed.

### Old Business

The letter that Don proposes to send to members + other vets @ the state was read. Some changes were suggested by Tim + Dick Doyle, including more of a sales pitch + a big finish. Beth is working on the address database to be used which she says can easily reach 200. The cost of the venture was discussed - money can be saved by mailing them from Glens Falls, + Beth can generate



them more cheaply directly from her computer than having copies made. Copies of the application will be needed, as well as envelopes. Take moves for approval of mailing up to 200 such letters. Dick 2nds this & the motion is passed.

The Honor the Vet program will kick off this Friday at noon at NE Army Supply. The sticker was passed around & ways of generating membership cards was also discussed. For now the ID cards of any official vet org. will be accepted.

### New Business

Steve & Jim filled the Chapter in about Jim Minard & the Last Patrol being held next weekend. The network has stepped in to help Bill & Buster with this. It will end in Montpel on Sunday w/ the presentation of a flag & brace to the St of Arms who will then relay it to Gov. Dean.

The Regional Conf. will be held in Rutland on Oct. 23rd. Linda Schwartz handled all preparations for this, including the agenda. All National Officers are committed to be here.

Certificates of Honor were presented by Steve. The ~~next~~ first went to John Bergeron for his TV show on gays in the military + for all his work with the PR committee. The second was presented to Jake for his commitment to veterans. The next nominations should be in by Dec. for presentation in January.

~~The~~ Steve would like to have the Chapter sponsor a woman vet for the Women in Military Service Memorial + he asks for suggestions. Kym is already registered, Clark suggests Mary Trombley who was a charter member of Chapter 1.

A newsletter committee was formed to begin putting together a newsletter. Beth will serve as editor, Don will set up advertising rates, + John is the chair.

For the good of the order - Jake reminds us not to overlook the veteran who simply doesn't join organizations. They still deserve our support + help.

Color Guard - Will be presenting colors for Ross Perot in Burlington.



Steve mentions the passing of both of Nic Basile's parents + extends the chapters sympathy. He also wishes Bill Higgins ~~success~~ good luck on his surgery this week.

Meeting Adjourned At 9 pm with a motion made by Bill H. + seconded by Kym.

VVA #1

11-6-93

Meeting was called to order At 7:12 + A moment of silence was held for MIAs. Minutes Read; motion to accept by Bill B. + seconded by Clark. Minutes Accepted.

Treas. Report - Total in checking \$1719.56  
Motion to accept by Kym, 2nd by Bill B. Passed

SARA Pendress is introduced + welcomed. Her brother is a MIA from Alabama, she is now a member of the N.E. Network.

Public Relations - John reports that the Herald published 2 pictures from the Regional Convention. He gave the VAD a tape of the Honor the Vet Ribbon cutting + also has a tape available of the Perot Rally. Motion to accept made by Kym, seconded by Clark. So Passed.

Color Guard - Colors were presented at the Ross Perot NAFTA Rally in Burlington. Color Guard also posted colors at the Region convention. Steve needs volunteers to go to White River to the VA Hospital for Veteran's Day Ceremony. Kym will be there speaking + since it is the year of the woman vet, ~~it is~~ she should also represent the



Chapter + light the candle. Most of the color guard will be marching in Washington DC in the parade to honor the woman vet.  
Motion to Accept by Clark, and by Bill B.  
Passed.

Membership - The letter which was to be mailed is done, but due to a computer glitch the database was lost. Starting over. If you have problems with your membership contact Don. Memberships are mailed to National once a month following meetings.

Region Conf. - The focus of this was on the Region not National, + the work done between individual chapters. State Council is brought up again, Don is opposed. Jim feels there is no need because VT is a small state. ~~BT~~

Steve asked our long distance members Dick + Bill Orr for input. They say we need more publicity + a better way of getting info out.

Kym Asks the Chapter for a donation to the WAC org. Steve suggests \$50, Clark says the treasury will allow that. Don moves

that we make an initial contribution of \$50,  
Seconded by Jim, passed.

John says the Rut. school system is  
launching an adopt a book program to keep the  
library going w/ the budget cuts. Clark suggests  
buying + donating a book.

Poi - Several of our people met w/ Ross Perot  
after the NAFTA rally + discussed MIAs + HR291.  
Tommy presented him w/ a bracelet w/ his  
father's name on it which Perot put on. He  
promised to try to get info on Col. Cook. Asked  
for info on HR291 which was faxed to him.

US Vet. Dispatch published a list of 27 MIA  
in Desert Storm, which the gov. denies. The  
Fair Haven vigil group is growing in #'s. Bob  
Jones is trying to get to Mike Durant. Jim  
displays a flag he made for Ted Sampley w/ the  
names on it.

Condolences to B Barnes on passing of his Aunt.  
Birthday wishes to Joe + Pappy.  
Congrats to Bill on his successful surgery

Steve has been in contact w/ an ERA nurse  
from the Phoenix Theatre who wants to do  
fundraisers for the chapter



Honor the Vet - Take has been made co-chair of the program + reports on progress. There are 14 ~~old~~ current members, They sign a contract so anyone having any problems getting disc. should see Take.

The Patriot Program is being launched w/ VAO for people who want to be involved but don't have a store. This program celebrates the spirit of the veteran + opens the door to anyone who wants to get involved.

Take needs help making contracts. The program is within the city only, + satellites will be issued to other towns under the direction of an org. like the VFW in W. Rut.

Questions were raised about the integrity of the program with the moneys going into VAO's accounts. Take states reasons of outreach program + tax status. Don raises the issue of accountability dealing w/ separate books. Much discussion ends w/ the promise of separate ~~books~~ accounts.

Steve asks for reimbursement @ of \$50 for copies + \$40 for rental of sound equip. for ribbon cutting. Don moves, Bill 2nds, passed.

Wreath question is asked. Take moves to discuss it. Pappy 2nd. Kym moves to spend up to \$100 to get a wreath, Tod seconds it. Meeting adjourned.